

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-08 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00

LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 L-03

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-06 AGRE-00 VO-03

SCA-01 DHA-02 /104 W

-----291315Z 048849 /43

R 290959Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2784

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AXXASSY BUCHAREST 2166-2167-2168

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSC

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

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AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AXXASSYWARSAW 1608-1609-1610

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 3 SOFIA 0888

BRUSSELS ALSO FOR EC BRUSSELS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CSCE, NATO, BU, PFOR, WTO

SUBJECT: CSCE IMPLEMENTATION QUESTIONNAIRE AND US MONITORING OF  
WARSAW PACT CSCE IMPLEMENTATION

REF: A) 76 STATE 224882; B) 76 STATE 84043; C) STATE 86619;

D) 76 SOFIA 2300; E) 75 SOFIA 2372; F) SXIA 2595;

G) 76 SOFIA 2146; H) 76 SOFIA 913; I) 76 SOFIA A-52;

J) 76 SOFIA 2260; K) SOFIA 857

1. SUMMARY: WE ARE NOW AT FOURTH FRAME IN OUR SERIES OF  
SNAPSHOTS OF BULGARIAN RECORD OF IMPLEMENTATION OF HELSINKI  
FINAL ACT, COVERING SIX-MONTH PERIOD JULY TO DECEMBER 1976.  
BULGARIAN PUBLIC STATEMENTS AND NUMEROUS PRESS ARTICLES  
DURING PERIOD SHOWED CLEARLY HEIGHTENED CONSCIOUSNESS OF FACT  
THAT ACTIONS IN BASKET II AND III AREAS 7 SOON BE MEASURED  
IN TERMS OF CSCE COMPLIANCE. PERIOD BROUGHT TWO MAJOR PRECE-  
DENTS FOR US IN CULTURAL AREA, PROGRESS TOWARD SIGNING CULTURAL  
AGREEMENT AND, OF EVEN GREATER IMPORTANCE, BEGINNING OF FINAL  
BULGARIAN PRE-BELGRADE PUSH FOR RESOLUTION OF ALL BUT MOST  
POLITICALLY SENSITIVE DIVIDED FAMILIES CASES. AT SAME TIME,  
GOOD BILATERAL REASONS ALSO EXISTED FOR THESE DEVELOPMENTS.  
RESPONSES KEYED TO CHECKLIST (REF B WITH ADDITIONS FROM  
PARA 4, REF A) COMPRISE TY FOLLOWING PARAS 2 THROUGH 8.  
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END SUMMARY.

2. WORKING CONDITIONS FOR US BUSINESSMEN:

A. THE ASSESSMENT PROVIDED IN OUR ORIGINAL 1975 REPORT  
OF BULGARIAN PERFORMANCE IN THIS AREA (REF E) REMAINS FULLY  
VALID, ALLTHOUGH IT SHOULD BE ADDED THAT THE GENERAL INCREASE IN  
US/BULGARIAN MUTUAL COMMERCIAL INTEREST, REFLECTED IN STEADY  
INCREASE IN TRADE, HAS LED TO SOME SLIGHT RELAXATION OF  
FORMALITY IN COMMERCIAL CONTACTS FOR BUSINESSMEN ESTABLISHED IN HIS  
MARKET. NEWER US BUSINESSMEN, HOWEVER, ENCOUNTER SAME OLD ARM'S  
LENGTH TREATMENT.

B. THE BULGARIAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE STATES THAT FIFTEEN  
WESTERN "TEMPORARY" REPRESENTATIVE OFFICES ARE NOW OPEN IN  
SOFIA, UNDER THE TERMS OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS DECREE OF  
DECEMBER 1975. NONE OF THEM ARE US FIRMS. THE MAJORITY ARE  
JAPANESE BUT SHELL, ICI AND FIAT ARE ALSO INCLUDED. WORK  
AND LIVING CONDITIONS OF THESE REPRESENTATIVES ARE DIFFICULT

(REF F), QTH LARGE AMOUNTS OF TIME NECESSARILY BEING DEVOTED  
SIMPLY TO ADMINISTERING THEMSELVES, BUT, IN GENERAL, AS THE  
PHENOMENON HAS BECOME LESS STRANGE IN BULGARIA, WHEELS HAVE  
TURNED MORE SMOOTHLY FOR RESIDENT FOREIGN BUSINESSMEN.

C. HOTEL RESERVATIONS CONTINUE TO BE A PROBLEM, PARTICULARLY  
WHEN SOME MAMMOTH CONFERENCE IS UNDERWAY IN SOFIA. THERE  
HAS BEEN NO CHANGE IN COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES AND BULGARIAN  
FOREIGN TRADE ORGANIZATIONS AND MINISTRIES HAVE STILL NOT  
MODIFIED THEIR CUSTOM OF SOMETIMES NOT REPLYING TO TELEXES  
AND LETTERS FROM AMERICAN AND OTHER FOREIGN COMPANIES, EVEN  
REGARDING REQUESTS FOR APPOINTMENTS. FOREIGN REPRESENTATIVE  
OFFICES HERE ARE LOCATED IN THE SOMETIMES CRAMPED PREMISES  
OF INTERPRED, THE REQUIRED (AND WELL PAID) INTERMEDIARY OF THE  
BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT BETWEEN THE REPRESENTATIVE OFFICES AND THE  
REST OF THE GOB APPARATUS. RESIDENTIAL PREMISES PROVIDED  
REPRESENTATIVES ARE GOOD BY BULGARIAN STANDARDS, SPARTAN G  
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ALFRESCO BY AMERICAN OR WESTERN EUROPEAN STANDARDS (CROWDED,  
UNCERTAIN HEAT AND WATER, 6-MONTH WAIT FOR TELEPHONE, ETC.).

D. EMBASSY ASSESSMENT (REF G) REMAINS FULLY VALID. PERHAPS  
THE MOST DIFFICULT ASPECT OF PROBLEM IS THE UNAVAILABILITY  
DUE TO LOW PRESS RUNS OF COPIES OF EVEN THOSE PUBLICATIONS  
WHICH GOB DOES PUT OUT PROVIDING FOREIGN TRADE AND OTHER  
SIGNIFICANT ECONOMIC DATA. (RECENT, AND STILL UNRESOLVED  
PROBLEM OF 1976 FOREIGN TRADE STATISTICAL YEARBOOK IS DESCRIBED  
IN SOFIA 740 AND 766, ALTHOUGH THAT EPISODE DOES NOT LIE WITHIN  
THE TIMEFRAME OF THIS REPORT.)

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USMISSION USBERLIN  
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AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG  
AMEMBASSY MADRID  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA  
AMEMBASSY OSLO  
AXXASS OTTAWA 45-46-47  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE  
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK  
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AMEMBASSY ROME  
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM  
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
AMEMBASSY VALLETTA  
AMEMBASSY VIENNA  
AMEMBASSY WARSAW  
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E. NO CHANGE.

3. FAMILY MEETINGS:

A. EMBASSY REVIEW OF B-2 VISA ISSUANCE RECORDS FOR THE PERIOD  
JULY 1-DECEMBER 31 INDICATED 78 INDIVIDUALS TRAVELLED TO VISIT  
CLOSE RELATIVES IN THE STATES. (NOTE: EMBASSY REFINED TABU-  
LATING CRITERIA TO INCLUDE ONLY "VISITS TO CLOSE RELATIVES,"  
THUS FIGURE CITED MAY APPEAR TO SHOW DECLINE IN VISITS.)

B. ALTHOUGH THE EMBASSY REPORTED IN REF H THAT VISITS BY BULGARIANS TO RELATIVES IN US WRE DIFFERENTIATED BY GOB BETWEEN THOSE RELATIVES WHO LEFT BULGARIA "ILLEGALLY" AND THOSE WHO LEFT "LEGALLY," THIS NOW SEEMS LESS OFTEN TO BE THE CASE. IT IS READILY APPARENT THAT GOB CONSIDERS THIS FACTOR, BUT THERE ARE OTHER FACTORS AS WELL. FOR EXAMPLE, WE BELIEVE THAT GOB MORE EASILY GRANTS PASSPORTS AND EXIT PERMITS IF THERE IS A VERY CLOSE RELATIVE WHO CAN BE KEPT IN BULGARIA AS A "HOSTAGE" TO INSURE THE RETURN OF THE TRAVELLER, AND THAT IT IS EASIER FOR THE ELDERLY TO GET VISAS THAN IT IS FOR THOSE OF WORKING AGE. ALSO, THERE ARE PROBABLY POLITICAL SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS WHICH UNDERGO REVIEW BY THE MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS ON THE BULGARIAN APPLICANT BEFORE APPROVAL TO TRAVEL IS GRANTED. WE DO KNOW THAT THE GOB WILL NOT GRANT PASSPORTS AND EXIT PERMITS TO BULGARIANS WHOSE RELATIVES ARE REGARDED AS HAVING ENGAGED IN "ANTI-BULGARIAN" ACTIVITIES.

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C. SEE REFS I AND J

4. FAMILY REUNIFICATIONS:

A. NO CHANGE SINCE REF D.

B. STATISTICS TO BE SUPPLIED BY DEPT.

C. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO ESTIMATE TOTAL NUMBER OF UNSUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS FOR GOB APPROVAL TO TRAVEL FOR FAMILY REUNIFICATION; WE KNOW ONLY OF THOSE WHO CONTACT EMBASSY.

D. GOB BEGAN ACCELERATING PROCESSING IN OCTOBER AND IN DECEMBER SIMPLIFIED PROCEDURES, RESULTING IN FURTHER ACCELERATION.

E. THE EMBASSY NOTED A PERCEPTIBLE MOVEMENT ON PART OF GOB, BEGINNING IN OCTOBER, TO MORE SPEEDILY RESOLVE ISSUE OF FAMILY REUNIFICATIONS. SEE ALSO REF D.

F. NO CHANGE.

5. BINATIONAL MARRIAGES:

A. THERE ARE FOUR BINATIONAL MARRIAGES RECORDED AT THE EMBASSY, AN INCREASE OF ONE SINCE OUR LAST REPORT. THE PREVIOUSLY REPORTED INFORMATION ON THREE PENDING CASES AND ONE CASE WITH INSUFFICIENT INFORMATION REMAINS THE SAME.

B. NO CHANGE.

C. NO CHANGE.

D. NO CHANGE.

6. TRAVEL AND TOURISM:  
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A. THE STATISTICS WILL BE PROVIDED BY DEPT.

B. NO CHANGE.

C. NO CHANGE.

D. NO CHANGE.

E. NO CHANGE.

F. NO CHANGE.

7. INFORMATION:

A. NO CHANGE. THERE WERE NO US NEWSPAPERS OR MAGAZINES ON  
PUBLIC SALE.

B. NO CHANGE, SAME STATE AS REF H.

C. NO CHANGE.

D. BUGARIAN TELEVISION CONTINUED ITS SERIES OF LEONARD  
BERNSTEIN'S "YOUNG PEOPLE'S CONCERTS," CARRIED SERIES "DENNIS  
THE MENANCE" FOR CHILDREN, PRESENTED FEATURE FILM "MARRIAGE  
YEAR NO. 1," AND HAD PROGRAMS "LOUIS ARMSTRONG" AND "ELLA  
FITZGERALD SINGS," BOTH PROBABLY OF US ORIGIN. TEN-MINUTE  
USIA BICENTENNIAL FILM, WITH INTRODUCTION AND CLOSING BY  
AMBASSADOR HERZ, WAS BROADCAST ON BULGARIAN TV DEC. 18.  
AMONG THE US FEATURE FILMS SHOWN COMMERCIALY WERE : "FIVE EASY  
PIECES," "THE SCARECROW," "THE DAY OF THE DOLPHIN," "THE  
PASSENGER," "THE FRENCH CONNECTION," PLUS MISCELLANEOUS OLDER  
FILMS. MOST SEEMED TO BE CHOSEN ON BASIS OF UNFLATTERING PICTURE  
OF US THEY PRESENTED.

E. VOA BROADCASTS WERE NOT JAMMED, BUT JAMMING OF RFE BROAD-  
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CASTS CONTINUED.

F. GENERALLY TV INFORMATION INCLUDES TITLE (E.G. "BERNSTEIN ON MUSIC") BUT NOT COUNTRY OF ORIGIN, WHILE COMMERCIAL FEATRE FILMS, LISTED IN PRESS, IDENTIFY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN.

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AMEMBASSY MADRID  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
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AMEMBASSY ROME  
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AMEMBASSY VIENNA  
AMEMBASSY WARSAW  
USVSSION NATO 578-579-580

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8. WORKING CONDITIONS FOR JOURNALISTS:

A. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE NO MULTIPLE EXIT/ENTRY VISAS HAVE BEEN REQUESTED BY AMERICAN MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES. FOUR VISAS WERE GRANTED TO US JOURNALISTS WHO USUALLY VISIT BULGARIA ON SINGLE ENTRY, NON-JOURNALIST VISAS BECAUSE OF ANTICIPATED LONG WAIT (ABOUT 3 MONTHS) FOR JOURNALIST VISAS.

B. NO VISAS WERE ACTUALLY REFUSED BUT ONE UCAPST WAS FORCED TO CANCEL HIS PLANNED VISIT TO SOFIA DUE TO AN APPARENT LACK OF HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS.

C. NO CHANGE.

D. NO CHANGE.

E. NO CHANGE.

F. EXPERIENCES OF SEVERAL JOURNALISTS WHO VISITED BULGARIA DURING PERIOD ARE TOO LIMITED FOR GENERALIZED COMMENT. DURING PAST YEAR ACCESS TO LOCAL SOURCES HAS BEEN IMPROVING BUT MOVEMENTS OF JOURNALISTS ARE MONITORED (ONE JOURNALIST WAS ACCOMPANIED BY BULGARIAN TELEGRAPH AGENCY REPRESENTATIVE TO ALL X PS APPOINTMENTS) AND SOURCES ARE HIGHLY CIRCUMSPECT IN THEIR COMMENTS. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, NO US OR WESTERN JOURNALISTS HAVE SOUGHT TO IMPORT MORE THAN NORMAL TECHNICAL EQUIPMENT,  
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AND NO TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. EXCEPT FOR VAGARIES OF TELEPHONE/TELEX COMMUNICATIONS, WE ARE AWARE OF NO UNUSUAL PROBLEMS IN REPORTING TO PARENT ORGANIZATIONS.

G. DEPT SHOULD SUPPLY FIGURE ON VISAS GRANTED HOST GOVERNMENT JOURNALISTS.



H. NO VISAS FOR BULGARIAN JOURNALISTS HAVE BEEN REFUSED.

I. NO VISAS FOR BULGARIAN JOURNALISTS HAVE BEEN DELAYED.

9. COMMENT: JULY-DECEMBER 1976 PERIOD SHOWED SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS IN US/BULGARIAN BILATERAL RELATIONS IN AREAS THAT FALL WITHIN PURVIEW OF CSCE. MOST STRIKING DURING THIS PERIOD WERE FIRST US CULTURAL EXHIBIT ("REFLECTIONS," WHICH RAN FOR THREE WEEKS IN DECEMBER AND JANUARY), AND FIRST MAJOR US ORCHESTRA VISIT (LOS ANGELES PHILHARMONIC, ALSO IN DECEMBER) SINCE COMMUNIST RULE BEGAN IN BULGARIA. NEGOTIATIONS FOR US-GOB CULTURAL AGREEMENT AND PROGRAM WERE ALSO BROUGHT TO POINT OF SIGNATURE. A FURTHER 33 PERCENT INCREASE IN US/BULGARIAN TRADE REFLECTED ITSELF IN SOME SMALL IMPROVEMENT FOR AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN IN ACCESS TO BULGARIAN OFFICIALS AND PROVISION OF COMMERCIAL AND ECONOMIC INFORMATION TO BULGARIANS, ALTHOUGH NO EASING WHATSOEVER OCCURRED IN SCANTY FORMAL BULGARIAN PUBLICATION AND PROVISION OF ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL DATA.

10. ACTIONS DURING JULY-DECEMBER 1976 PERIOD ARE INCLUDED IN EMBASSY ANALYSIS (REF K) OF GENERAL PROGRESSION OF GOB OVER PAST YEAR TOWARD RESOLUTION OF LARGE MAJORITY OF DIVIDED FAMILIES CASES, AN ISSUE OF HIGHEST SIGNIFICANCE BOTH IN US/BULGARIAN BILATERAL RELATIONS AND TO ASSESSMENT OF CSCE PERFORMANCE. DECEMBER, IN FACT, MARKED BEGINNING OF GOB RUN THROUGH DIVIDED FAMILY CASES TO TRY TO CLEAR DECKS BEFORE JUNE.

11. PICTURE THAT EMERGES AS OF END OF 1976 IS ONE OF A  
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BULGARIA VERY AWARE OF IMPENDING OPENING OF BELGRADE CONFERENCE, CONCERNED PRINCIPALLY WITH PACKAGING OF ANY ACT CAPABLE OF BEING INCLUDED IN CSCE AREAS, BUT BEGINNING TO TAKE SOME ACTIONS CLEARLY MARKETABLE AS EVIDENCE OF CSCE COMPLIANCE. IT MUST BE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT POSITIVE ASPECT OF THIS TREND IS CLEARER FROM NW POINT OF APRIL 30 THAN ON DECEMBER 31, UNDERLINING HOW CLOSE TO JUNE BULGARIANS HAVE CUT IT IN SOME CRUCIAL CSCE AREAS SUCH AS, FOR EXAMPLE, AVAILABILITY OF WESTERN NEWSPAPERS, WHICH APPEARED IN SOFIA APRIL 14. END COMMENT.  
HERZ

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, BU, CSCE, NATO, WTO  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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